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Instructions No. 13.
1,000—April, 1907.

Instructions to Inspectors.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE GRANT.

RURAL PUBLIC AND SEPARATE SCHOOLS. IN THE DISTRICTS OF ONTARIO.

Provisions of the Amended Department of Education Act.

The following are the provisions of Section 4 of the Education Department Act, as amended at the recent session of the Legislature, on which has been based the new scheme of distributing the Legislative Grant to the Rural Public and Separate Schools in the Districts.

It shall be the duty of the Minister of Education, and he shall have power:

(3) Subject to the Regulations of the Department of Education, to apportion all sums of money voted by the Legislative Assembly as a general grant for the Rural Public and Separate Schools in the organized counties and districts amongst said rural schools in the organized counties and in the districts respectively on the basis of the salaries paid to the teachers, the value of the equipment, the character of the accommodations, the grade of the teachers' professional certificates, and the amount of the assessments.

(5) Subject to the Regulations of the Department of Education, the grants for the Rural Public and Separate Schools in the districts shall be payable in two instalments direct to the respective boards of trustees as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may direct; the first instalment on or before the first day of August and the second on or before the first day of December.

(6) Under the provisions of such regulations as may be made by the Department of Education, to apportion to Public and Separate School Boards in poor rural districts, and to the residents of lumber, mining, and other settlements all sums of money voted by the Legislative Assembly for teachers' salaries to Public and Separate School Boards in poor rural districts, and for such other school purposes as the Minister of Education may consider expedient.

SCHEME OF DISTRIBUTION.

The information herein contained is now communicated to the District Inspectors in order that they may have sufficient time to procure from School Boards and Township Clerks the data necessary for the official returns on which the distribution will be made by the Education Department, and the forms for which will be sent to each Inspector as soon as they are printed. All returns from School Boards shall be certified by the Secretary or Secretary-Treasurer; those from the Township Clerks shall be certified by these officials; and said returns shall be retained by the Inspector for at least one year as his authority for his official report. The Legislative Grants must be paid by the Education Department on or before August 1st. It will accordingly be necessary for the Inspector to act as expeditiously as possible in procuring the information he may need, so as to be able to fill in the official forms not later than June 22nd. As provided in section 4 (5) quoted above, the instalments will be payable direct to the School Boards concerned; the first, on or before the first day of August; and the second, on or before the first day of December, provided the Inspector certifies that the school has been in effective operation for the second half year.

The assessments specified below, on which the grants concerned will be based, are as follows:

(1) In the case of *organized townships,* the average section assessment of each township for 1907 shall be computed on the assessment of 1906, that for 1908 on the assessments of 1906 and 1907, and thereafter on the assessments for the three years next preceding the year of distribution. In computing the said average section assessment, the lands of the supporters of each Separate School in the township shall be reckoned as a section.

(2) In the case of *unorganized townships,* the assessment of each section for 1907 shall be computed on the assessment of 1906, that for 1908 on the average of the assessments of 1906 and 1907, and thereafter on the average of the assessments for the three years next preceding the year of distribution.

(3) If, in any year, the assessment of 1906 is reduced in any case, such reduction shall not be recognized by the Education Department, unless satisfactory reasons are submitted, through the Inspector, for said reduction.

(4) Where there are two schools in a section, half the section shall be reckoned as belonging to each school.

(5) Where a union section is made up of sections of different townships, the union section shall be reckoned as belonging to that township in which the school house is situated.

Under the new scheme the total yearly apportionment to each school shall be the sum of the grants to which it is entitled under the following regulations, but

(1) Only half of each grant shall be paid where the school is open less than the full year but at least one term;

(2) Only half of the grant on the assistant teacher's salary shall be paid when he teaches less than the full year but at least one term;

(3) Continuation Classes Grades A and B shall not share in this apportionment.

I. Grants Payable on the Basis of the Teachers' Salaries.

(1) Where the assessment, as defined above, is under $20,000, 40 per cent. of the excess of each salary over $100, to a maximum salary of $600.

(2) Where the assessment, as defined above, is $20,000 or over, 40 per cent. of the excess of the salary of each Principal over $150 and of each Assistant over $100, in each case to a maximum salary of $600.

For 1907 the Grant on teachers' salaries will be computed on the rate per annum current when the Inspector makes his report. Thereafter it will be computed on the amount paid for the school year (beginning after June of the year preceding the year of apportionment).

II. Grants Payable on the Basis of the Teachers' Certificates.

(1) $20 on each Professional District Certificate.
(2) $25 on each Professional Third Class Certificate.
(3) $30 on each Professional Second Class Certificate.
(4) $35 on each Professional First Class Certificate.

The grant is payable on the grade of the certificate of the teacher in the School when the Inspector reports.

The grant shall be one-half the amount if the teacher teaches at least one term but less than a year.

No grant will be made on the grade of a Teacher's Certificate in any year without the attestation of the Inspector that the teacher concerned is teaching satisfactorily to said Inspector.

III. Special Grants Payable to Schools in Poor Districts.

The following special grants will be paid out of the Legislative Grant for assisted Public and Separate Schools in new districts:

(*a*) *Fixed Minimum Grants.*

(1) Where the assessment, as defined above, is under $20,000, a special grant of $40.

(2) Where the assessment, as defined above, is at least $20,000, but less than $30,000, a special grant of $30.

(3) Where the assessment, as defined above, is at least $30,000, but less than $40,000, a special grant of $25.

(4) Where the assessment, as defined above, is at least $40,000, but less than $50,000, a special grant of $20.

(b) Grants payable for the Improvement of Equipment and Accommodations.

(1) Where the assessment, as defined above, is under $20,000, a special grant of $30.

(2) Where the assessment, as defined above, is at least $20,000 and under $30,000, a special grant of $15.

The special grants for the improvement of equipment and accommodations shall be expended by the trustees under the advice of the Inspector, and before August 1st of the year next following the receipt of the grant.

At the apportionment of the Legislative Grant in 1908, where the assessment, as defined above, is over $30,000, a percentage will be allowed on the value of the equipment, and a grant on the character of the accommodations. These grants will be apportioned as far as practicable on the same conditions as are now provided for the apportionment of the grant on the basis of the equipment and the accommodations in the case of Rural Public and Separate Schools in the organized counties. (See Circular No. 33, 1907.)

(c) Further Grants to Assisted Schools.

As provided in section 4 (6) of the Education Department Act, quoted above, further grants will be made to assist special cases of hardship in school sections and in settlements where there is as yet no school organization, for teachers' salaries and for such other purposes as the Minister of Education may deem expedient. Such grants will be made on the report of the Inspector concerned, who shall set forth in full detail on or before the first of November of each year, in a form to be obtained from the Minister, the conditions which, in his judgment, necessitate such grants.

Special Grant for Rural School Libraries.

A special grant of $5,000 was made in aid of Rural School Libraries of the Province at the recent session of the Legislature. The share of the Districts in this grant will be distributed this year as a percentage on the value of all books purchased between July 1st, 1906, and July 1st, 1907, provided no school receive more than $5.00 and no purchase is less than $10.00. The books shall also have been approvd by the Inspector as especially suitable for the pupils' use.

All applications for this grant must be made by the Trustees through the Inspector, on or before the 10th day of July. The Trustees shall supply the Inspector with all the information he may require, in regard to the purchases of the books, including vouchers from the booksellers.

The Inspector will make application to the Education Department on a form to be provided, which must be forwarded to the Education Department not later than the first day of August.

At its next session, the Minister will recommend to the Legislature a grant for the same purpose, and any purchases made of library books for the pupils' use after the 1st of July of this year will be taken into account in next year's distribution of the Legislative Grant.